

## Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00  
/030 W

-----242016 029569 /53

R 241532Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6517  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0749

MEXICO CITY FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/1;9

TAGS: EFIS, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICA - IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION OF FISH

1. THE EMBASSY PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN  
RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM MR. FRANK J. O'CONNOR, DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR, THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.

2. CONSUMER IMPORT REGULATIONS FOR FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS:

PREPARED FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS MAY BE IMPORTED TO  
N STA RICA WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. OF COURSE, THE PRODUCT MUST  
MEET SANITARY REGULATIONS AND IS SUBJECT TO TESTINGHIY THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AT ANY TIME.

IMPORTS OF FRESH FISH ARE SUBJECT TO STRINGENT SANITARY  
INSPECTION AT THE TIME THE FISH ARE LANDED. ALMOST ALL  
FRESH FISH LANDED IN COSTA RICA ARE CAUGHT IN LOCAL WATERS.

3. STATISTICS FOR 1975 OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCT IMPORTS  
FROM ALL AREAS:

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AGHT IN KILOS

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COD	63,500	38,300
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SALMON	9,900	2,600
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SARDINES	129,300	96,900
MACKEEWE	36,600	66,000
OTHERS	72,400	67,800
ROH		
DAA	-----	
TOTAL IMPORTS:	311,700	271,600

AS CAN BE SEEN, COSTA RICA IMPORTS A RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITY OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS. MOST OF THE PRODUCTS LISTED ABOVE WERE IMPORTED IN CANS OR JARS. SPAIN IS THE MAJOR SUPPLIER OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS TO COSTA RICA.

#### 4. KINDS OF FISH CONSUMED IN COSTA RICA:

ACCURATE STATISTICS OF THE KINDS AND QUANTITIES OF FISH CONSUMED IN COSTA RICA ARE NOT AVAILABLE. A STUDY PERFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REVEALS THAT PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS IN 1974 WAS APPROXIMATELY THREE KILOS. THE STUDY, HOWEVER, DID NOT STATE WHAT TYPES OF FISH OR IN WHAT QUANTITIES EACH TYPE WAS CONSUMED.

STATISTICS ON THE AMOUNT OF FISH LANDED IN COSTA RICAN PORTS IS INCOMPLETE BECAUSE MANY FISHERMEN DO NOT REPORT THEIR CATCHES. FOR 1975, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REPORTS CATCHES OF 1,563 METRIC TONS OF SHRIMP AND 2,237 UNCLASSIFIED

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METRIC TONS OF FISH OF ALL TYPES, EXCLUDING SARDINES FOR WHICH NO DATA ARE AVAILABLE. EXPORT STATISTICS FOR THE SAME YEAR, COMPILED BY ANOTHER MINISTRY, SHOW THAT 1,306 METRIC TONS OF SHRIMP AND 1,042 TONS OF FISH, INCLUDING 896 METRIC TONS OF SARDINES, WERE EXPORTED. ELIMINATING SARDINES FROM THE EQUATION AND SUBTRACTING SHRIMP AND FISH EXPORTS FROM THE TOTAL CATCH REPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE YIELDS AN INTERNAL CONSUMPTION OF SHRIMP AND FISH OF 2,348 METRIC TONS.

THE MOST POPULAR SEAFOOD PRODUCTS IN LOCAL CONSUMPTION ARE CORVINA AND SHRIMP.  
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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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